

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Vice Chair Milly Nadler called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Members present: Celia Daly, Nancy Dragani, Maru Garcia, Kathleen Martell,
Milly Nadler, and Kim St. Martin

Members absent: Megan Deffner

Guests: None

Staff: Susan Anderson, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Center Department

Introductions

Vice Chair Nadler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Daly made a motion to accept the minutes of June 9, 2021, as written. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Arts Drop Project Update (Nadler for Deffner)

Vice Chair Nadler reported the following:

The commission had another very successful Arts Drop held in June over a two-week period from June 8 - June 24. Commissioners Daly, Dragani, Deffner, and

Nadler managed 16 drops in 16 different locations. There were amazing clues written by Commissioner Daly which made finding the items a little more challenging. Despite some rain, all items were found. Their posts reached a total of 8,000 people with engagement from about 1,200. This is the commission's most successful program to date. They are planning to do another one in December. The only glitch was that one community member found and claimed three pieces but after Chair Deffner sent her a private message, she understood that it was appropriate to leave the rest of the items for others.

It was suggested the commission make a statement up front about community members only getting one item and if they have already found one, they can help a neighbor or spread the word to friends about the program.

Carnation Festival Plate Design (Nadler)

Vice Chair Nadler reported the following:

There was a total of five designs submitted and after Commissioners Deffner, Dragani, Daly, Garcia, and Nadler weighed in, the results were as follows: First Place, Wilma Kneis; Second Place, Theresa Joyce; and Third Place, Joyce Gallo. City Council Representative Leah Dozeman and the festival committee agreed with the commission's recommendations and will notify the winners. The festival committee will be awarding cash prizes this year.

Cultural Commission Business Award (Nadler for Deffner)

Vice Chair Nadler reported the following:

As discussed at their last meeting, they will be nominating businesses this month that they think are deserving of the Cultural Commission Business Award, keeping in mind who may have gone above and beyond during the pandemic. As a Cultural Commission, they are considering businesses that promoted arts and culture during that time. Qualities they are looking for:

1. Promoting awareness of cultural diversity, heritage, and activities
2. Promoting a creative environment
3. Supporting opportunities in art education for all ages
4. Providing support for performing arts
5. Demonstrating architectural and design excellence

In the past they have rated each category from 1-5 with 5 being the highest rating. The commission then tallied the scores and the one with the highest number was

their pick for the business award. For this year, they nominated the following:

1. The Curtain Playhouse – this is for children and teenagers; they supported the families during the pandemic (Maru Garcia)
2. Teller Street Gallery – they offer classes, painting for all ages, encourage arts but discovered they are closed (Celia Daly)
3. Audacity – opened during pandemic and did a lot of promotion (Kathleen Martell)
4. Tootsies – participated in the Halloween performance art (Nancy Dragani)
5. All Seasons Market – promoted arts and artisans with building murals (Kathleen Martell)
6. Stylus and Crate – had music with records on Mother’s Day with an activity and performers (Kim St. Martin)

After discussion, the commission voted and selected a winner. That information will be sent to Steve Art at City Hall. Cheryl Brungardt will be asked to make an award for the winner. Next highest two nominees were selected as well.

The awards breakfast will be held on September 23rd, from 7:15-9:00 a.m. for all commissioners to attend.

Wheat Ridge Reads (Garcia)

Commissioner Garcia reported that she has received five to six books for review from Denver metro area authors and will send the information to everyone highlighting the summaries for each book. Commissioners will discuss and select a book at the next meeting.

Lutheran Legacy Campus (Martell)

Commissioner Martell attended a tour of the Lutheran Medical Campus with city officials, Jefferson County Library, and Red Rocks Community College. The visit highlighted opportunities on how the space/property could be used in the future once the hospital vacates the campus. There is a lot of potential for cultural usage which is dependent upon city funding and approval. Commissioner Martell expressed how beautiful the chapel was with all the stained-glass windows which can be converted easily into event space. There was also another building on the property named the Blue House that has a kitchen area and could be used for great meeting space. It will be interesting when the city puts together a master plan and vision regarding the potential development of that space once available.

Performances in the Park Live Artist (Dragani)

Commissioner Dragani stated that her neighbor Terry Womble may be interested in doing live art for the event with stipulations that would need to be considered. She asked him to submit his proposal to Chair Deffner and stated that his cost would be more than the commission's budget could support.

Item 5 – New Business

Localworks:

With the departure of Carolyn Duran from Localworks, Commissioner Daly offered to contact them to reach out as a Cultural Commission liaison and find out who to reestablish that connection with to maintain a working relationship.

Commissioner Martell asked as a commission how they connect and work with Localworks and Wheat Ridge Creative groups. Vice Chair Nadler explained that as a commission, part of their mission and vision was to reach out to the community which is how the collaboration evolved. They are a good resource to advertise commission events and vice versa. The previous name for Wheat Ridge Creatives was Artspace.

Wheat Ridge Creatives:

The commission agreed that they should attend the Wheat Ridge Creatives monthly meetings and that they should rotate. Vice Chair Nadler attended the meeting in May and Commissioner Martell offered to attend the meeting in July.

Budget:

Vice Chair Nadler reported that the commission has a little over \$2,000 extra after they pay for the Performance Artist at the Performances in the Park event (\$200-\$300) and pay for the Business Award (\$500). They will discuss ideas for new ways to spend the money at the August meeting.

They will also discuss how Wheat Ridge's agricultural identity may fit into its cultural identity and be part of the commission's mission.

They discussed about having meetings in person and decided to wait until October and will review at that time.

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Garcia: No comments.

Commissioner Daly: Thank you Milly for chairing the meeting.

Commissioner Martell: Super excited to join everyone for my first meeting.

Commissioner Dragani: Thanks for running the meeting Milly.

Commissioner St. Martin: Good to see everyone and thank you Milly.

Vice Chair Nadler: If you discussed an agenda item, please send in your summaries to Terese.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Vice Chair Nadler adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.